

Docket No.: 034620-000004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Hiroki Igarashi  
SERIAL NO.: 10/608,256 CONFIRMATION No.: 8343  
FILING DATE: June 27, 2003  
TITLE: FLOW CONTROL DEVICE  
EXAMINER: Peter T. DeVore (Tel. No.: (571) 272-4884)  
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ART UNIT: 3751

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class  
Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA  
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Carol Diez

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P.O. Box 1450  
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**APPLICANT'S COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

These comments are responsive to the Notice of Allowance mailed on  
April 5, 2005, which sets forth the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

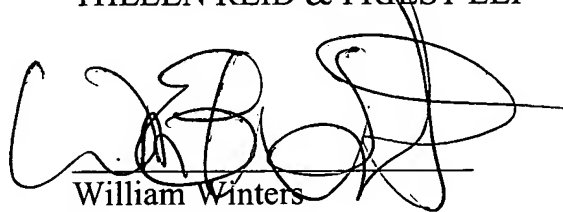
The Examiner is thanked for the kind allowance of all pending claims (i.e. claims  
1,3,6,16 & 21). Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for  
allowance as set forth in the Notice of Allowance. However, Applicants point out that  
the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons  
for allowance as set forth in the Notice of Allowance, and that additional reasons for

allowability may exist, each of which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment to our deposit account number 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'William Winters', written over a horizontal line.

William Winters  
Reg. No. 42,232

Dated: July 5, 2005

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